

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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USIA WASHDC
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES
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CINCEUR
USNMY SHAPE
AMCONSUL ADANA
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMCONSUL IZMIR

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NAPLES ALSO FOR INTAF

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: MARR, MASS, TU, GR, NATO
SUBJECT: TURKISH PRESS REPORTS ON DEFENSE MINISTER'S STATEMENTS

1. THE JANUARY 25 EDITION OF THE PRO-GOVERNMENT DAILY "MILLIYET"
CARRIED EXTENSIVE IF CONFUSING QUOTATIONS FROM THE TESTIMONY OF
DEFENSE MINISTER ISIK BEFORE THE MIXED BUDGET COMMITTEE OF THE GRAND
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY. ISIK IS QUOTED AS FOLLOWS: BEGIN QUOTE.

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AMERICA HAS SATISFIED TURKEY BY GIVING HER ARMS AND SATISFIED
GREECE BY PROTECTING HER AGAINST TURKEY. AS LONG AS THE TURKISH
GOVERNMENTS REMAINED SILENT IN VIEW OF THIS SITUATION, AMERICA
FELT AT EASE. HOWEVER, GREEK DEMANDS HAVE REACHED SUCH DIMENSIONS
THAT IT HAS BECOME IMPOSSIBLE TO OVERLOOK THEM AND DIFFICULTIES
BEGAN EMERGING. WHAT IS THE SITUATION NOW. GREECE SAYS SHE
WILL GET OUT OF NATO BECAUSE TURKEY HAS ENGAGED IN AN OPERATION

IN CYPRUS. WHICH GREECE? THE GREECE WHICH HAS ALWAYS DEFENDED THE VIEW THAT THE CYPRUS ISSUE DOES NOT CONCERN NATO. NOW THE SAME GREECE IS WITHDRAWING FROM NATO, AND IMMEDIATELY AMERICA BEGAN IMPOSING AN ARMS EMBARGO ON TURKEY. WHILE ALL THESE THINGS WERE HAPPENING WHAT WAS TURKEY DOING? TURKEY SAID: "LET'S GET TOGETHER AND REACH A MILITARY COOPERATION AGREEMENT. YOU LIFT THE EMBARGO AND WE'LL LET YOU OPERATE THE NATO BASES." AMERICA SAID "ALL RIGHT." BUT PLEASE PAY ATTENTION TO WHAT GREECE WAS DOING. GREECE SAID TO AMERICA: "I WILL SIGN A MILITARY COOPERATION AGREEMENT WITH YOU, BUT I HAVE CONDITIONS. YOU WILL GIVE ME GUARANTEES ON TWO SUBJECTS: 1. TURKEY WILL GIVE LAND CONCESSIONS IN CYPRUS. 2. YOU WILL BE ON MY SIDE WITH ALL YOUR POWER IF TURKEY ATTEMPTS TO UPSET THE STATUS QUO IN THE AEGEAN." GREECE SECURED THESE GUARANTEES AND THEREAFTER CONSENTED TO SIGN A MILITARY COOPERATION AGREEMENT WITH AMERICA. THE APPEARANCE IS THAT WE HAVE BECOME A COUNTRY THAT RUNS AFTER AMERICA TO SIGN A MILITARY COOPERATION AGREEMENT. IN TURN, AMERICA BECOMES THE COUNTRY THAT RUNS AFTER GREECE IN ORDER TO SIGN A MILITARY COOPERATION AGREEMENT. WHEN MATTERS REACH THIS STAGE, THW BECOME EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO RESOLVE. NOW, THE DUTY THAT BEFALLS US IS TO BE ABLE TO EXPLAIN TO AMERICA THAT SUCH RELATIONS CANNOT BE RESTORED TO THEIR PREVIOUS LEVEL UNTIL IT TAKES A BALANCED POSITION IN ITS RELATIONS WITH TURKEY AND GREECE. END QUOTE

2. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH ISIK'S REMARKS RECEIVED EXTENSIVE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND FRONT PAGE COVERAGE IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE "DAILY NEWS" (NOT GENERALLY READ BY TURKS), "MILLIYET'S" SHORT INSIDE PAGE STORY WAS THE ONLY COVERAGE IN THE TURKISH LANGUAGE PRESS. ISIK'S COMMENTS SEEM TO GO SOMEWHAT BEYOND PREVIOUSLY STATED POSITIONS OF THE ECEVIT GOVERNMENT. HOWEVER, THEY ARE FAIRLY STANDARD RHETORIC FOR ISIK WHO HAS STAKED OUT A POSITION WITHIN THE REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY AS ITS MOST CHAUVINISTIC SPOKESMAN ON MATTERS OF FOREIGN POLICY. WE ARE THEREFORE INCLINED TO DOUBT THAT THIS RHETORIC FORESHADOWS NEW DIRECTIONS IN TURKISH FOREIGN POLICY.

SPIERS

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